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SUMMARY: A flood of Western-oriented comment approaches unanimity in support of the President's "historic decision." Among other things, his "far-reaching initiative" and "plucky attitude" are praised as showing that "Truman has shouldered his responsibilities as a great statesman." Some of the comment continues to be tempered by expressions of uneasiness about the possibility of a larger war; but such expressions are considerably less frequent and less fearful than was the case prior to the decision. Realistic assessments of the risks involved are paralleled by determined relief that the free world is finally making a stand against Communist aggression. A new element of Western uneasiness, however, has to do with the "slowness of the results from the American intervention." And at least one Soviet-controlled source (Radio Leipzig) has boasted about the "North Koreans' tremendous progress" despite the use of American planes.

Radio Moscow distributes, without comment, the official Soviet reply to the original U.N. resolution on Korea. Yesterday's PRAVDA article continues to be widely broadcast. The Soviet radio's only other independent comments have been in the form of another PRAVDA article and a TASS dispatch, both designed to demonstrate that the "American-directed" South Korean attempt "to invade the north was preceded by lengthy and intensive actions." Monitored North Korean broadcasts have not yet mentioned the President's decision. Pyongyang makes much of Seoul's capture. Satellite radios, especially in Eastern Germany, continue their fearmongering campaign to arouse the "peace partisans" against Truman's most recent attempt "to kindle a third world war." They hew to the line that the alleged South Korean invasion of the north had been long prepared by the American imperialists and that the

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President's decision is an act of criminal, provocative aggression.

AMERICA'S "LONG AND INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS" AGAINST NORTH KOREA: Neither Moscow nor its Satellites (including Pyongyang) makes much of an attempt at factual documentation of the fiction that North Korea was the victim of an attempted invasion from the south. Instead, they try to give the idea an aura of credibility by using a propaganda line which takes the "attempted invasion" for granted and which at the same time surrounds it with a screen of secondary alleged facts tending to distract attention from the central issue. The above-mentioned PRAVDA and TASS pieces, for example, utilize foreign press sources to "prove" that the American imperialists had long prepared for the "invasion" by aiding in the organization and development of the South Korean army; but they do not once attempt to document the idea that such an "invasion" actually occurred. PRAVDA's "evidence" consists, among other things, of a recent ASSOCIATED PRESS photograph. According to PRAVDA's Berlin correspondent, Korolkov, the photograph shows John Foster Dulles standing in a South Korean trench "examining a map of the forthcoming military actions." He is surrounded by American officers, one of whom is "surveying through field glasses the country in front of him... the territory of the Korean People's Democratic Republic." Korolkov explains "what it is all about," as follows:

"The camera... pictures on the demarcation line the last stages of the preparation for an attack on North Korea. Surrounded by his officers and by soldiers of the Syngman Rhee mercenary army, Dulles is personally inspecting the South Korean troops already held in a state of military preparedness."

For its "evidence," the TASS dispatch refers to the activities of the American military advisory mission in Korea, to a statement by Dulles while recently in Korea to the effect that "the eyes of the free world are fixed upon you (Koreans)," and to Syngman Rhee's 1 March "assertion that he would never know peace or rest until Korea was united, presumably under control of reactionary puppets directed from Washington." All of this, charges TASS, "clearly demonstrates... the long and intensified preparations preceding the adventurist effort... to invade" North Korea.

WESTERN-ORIENTED CONCERN WITH THE "SLOWNESS OF RESULTS" IN KOREA: At least five comments express this concern. One Swedish paper doubts whether American air and sea forces are competent to deal with the North Korean attack. Another "says that an American intervention in Korea which did not lead to the intended result would in many ways be even more disastrous than U.S. passivity." This feeling, according to an AFP dispatch, is also prevalent among Western diplomatic circles in Tokyo where it is believed that "if the North Korean advance cannot be nullified soon the Americans will have to send in land forces." Britain's NEWS CHRONICLE says that "the American position may have to be reviewed if Korea is to be held"; and the MIRROR and MAIL both "consider that if ground forces in Korea prove necessary, they should be put in."

OTHER COMMENT FROM WESTERN-ORIENTED SOURCES: As indicated above, reactions from Western-oriented sources are preponderantly favorable to the President's decision. There are, however, a few that are not. One of the most surprising of these comes from Radio Madrid, whose commentator Perez Madrigal proclaims a plague on both the houses of Moscow and Washington. Explaining that the Korean situation represents a naked clash between "two giant forces which aspire to world hegemony" and claiming that South Korea is no more free or democratic than North Korea, he "condemns... the universal treachery which is being committed against (one of) the most wretched countries in the world." Another critical response comes from the Indonesian radio at Jakarta. According to it, "American prestige in Asia has suffered on account of the Korean affair, whatever the final outcome." There is no elaboration of this viewpoint. But resentment against great-power interference in Asiatic countries is implied.

SOUTH KOREAN BROADCASTS: An instance of apparently over-optimistic reporting is Radio Pusan's announcement, while the Seoul radio was still relaying Pyongyang broadcasts, that "Seoul has been recaptured completely and public order secured" and that the "Government, which has been temporarily staying in Taejon, returned to the capital early this morning (29 June)."

NOTE: It has just been learned that the PRAVDA reply to the President's decision was broadcast by Moscow in at least 22 different languages and 45 different times on 28 June.

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